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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 4, 2019

Chairman Raul Grijalva
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rob Bishop
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop,

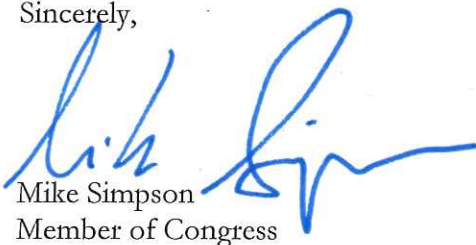
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on issues that are important to the west and Idaho. While I have many priorities within the jurisdiction of this committee, I want to focus on one issue that has national and local significance.

I am a strong supporter of our public lands and believe they are a key part of America's infrastructure. Sadly, our nation's public lands have a massive backlog of maintenance due to increasing visitor ship. We often say that we love our Parks, but sometimes we love them too much. The National Park Service alone has a nearly \$12 billion backlog with roads, parking lots, and bridges accounting for more than \$6 billion.

To that end, I am a cosponsor of several pieces of legislation which would help fund the backlog maintenance on our public lands. I introduced the LAND Act which would fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and backlog of maintenance in our National Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education facilities. Previous, proposals, and the President's budget request also include the Forest Service. I am also a supporter of the Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act which would similarly fund backlog maintenance across the Department of the Interior using unobligated funding from energy revenues. I would encourage any infrastructure package to include these proposals to take care of our public lands and the associated backlog of maintenance. In the short term, I think it is important to move both proposals through committee to ensure they are appropriately vetted in the process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. If you have further questions I encourage you to contact Jamie Neill (James.Neill@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5531) on my staff.

Sincerely,



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress